

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 157009

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R 192026Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 157009

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN SAN FRANCISCO CONGEN PREMISES

REF: CAIRO 5327

1. WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTINUOUS CONTACT WITH JAMES LYONS, MAYOR ALIOTO'S REPRESENTATIVE IN WASHINGTON, WHO ON JULY 18 INFORMED US THAT SAN FRANCISCO AUTHORITIES ARE AWARE OF SITUATION AND WILLING TO HELP. ACCORDING TO LYONS, SAN FRANCISCO CITY ATTORNEY AND OTHER OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH LAWYER FOR EGYPTIAN SIDE, ARE AWARE OF CURRENT LEASING ARRANGEMENTS, AND HAVE PLEDGED CITY'S COOPERATION.

2. LYONS TELLS US THAT CITY OFFICIALS BELIEVE EGYPTIANS HAVE STRONG LEGAL CASE AND HE NOTED THAT LEGAL PAPERWORK HAS ALREADY BEEN FORMULATED BY ATTORNEY FOR EGYPTIAN EMBASSY TO MOVE FOR LEGAL EVICTION IF DELANCEY STREET FOUNDATION DOES NOT VACATE PREMISES BY DEADLINE OF AUGUST 1, 1974.

3. MEANWHILE, DELANCEY STREET FOUNDATION HAS PURCHASED A NEW PROPERTY IN SAN FRANCISCO TO WHICH IT CAN MOVE. PUR-
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PAGE 02 STATE 157009

CHASE WAS FIRST REPORTED IN SAN FRANCISCO PRESS ARTICLE AND

LATER CONFIRMED FOR US BY LYONS. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR, HOWEVER, IF NEWLY PURCHASED PREMISES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR FOUNDATION'S USE BY AUGUST 1. NEVERTHELESS, LYONS TELLS US

THAT DELANCEY STREET FOUNDATION BUSINESS MANAGER,BILL MAHER, HAS MADE IT KNOWN THAT THE FOUNDATION INTENDS TO REMAIN IN THE EGYPTIAN CG BUILDING AFTER AUGUST 1 QUOTE OUT OF SPITE UNQUOTE. THE FOUNDATION IS ALREADY IN CONFRONTATION WITH SAN FRANCISCO CITY AUTHORITIES FOR VIOLATING THE ZONING CODES, AND MAHER APPARENTLY INTENDS TO GAIN PUBLICITY FOR THE FOUNDATION BY CAUSING A SCENE WHEN THE TIME COMES FOR THE CITY TO TAKE EVICTION ACTION.

4. WE HAVE ASKED LYONS TO EXPLORE FURTHER WITH MAYOR ALIOTO WAYS TO AVOID CONFRONTATION AND PUBLICITY THAT MIGHT PROVE EMBARRASSING TO EGYPTIANS. SPECIFICALLY, WE HAVE ASKED LYONS TO LOOK INTO APPROPRIATE MOVES DEPARTMENT MIGHT TAKE TO HELP MAYOR ALIOTO AND SAN FRANCISCO AUTHORITIES ON THIS PROBLEM. LYONS WILL CHECK WITH THE MAYOR'S OFFICE AND CONTACT DEPARTMENT ON MONDAY, JULY 22. AT THAT TIME WE HOPE TO HAVE A CLEARER READING ON SITUATION.

5. WE ARE UNABLE TO JUDGE AT THIS TIME HOW EFFECTIVE MAYOR ALIOTO AND OTHER SAN FRANCISCO AUTHORITIES WILL BE IN RESOLVING SITUATION IN SATISFACTORY MANNER SHORT OF LEGAL EVICTION. WE ARE HOPEFUL, HOWEVER, THAT STRONG LEGAL CARDS HELD BY EGYPTIANS, COUPLED BY FACT THAT FOUNDATION HAS PURCHASED NEW SITE FOR ITS ACTIVITIES, WILL PERMIT EGYPTIANS TO REGAIN THEIR BUILDING WELL BEFORE SADAT VISIT. UNFORTUNATELY, THERE APPEARS TO BE LITTLE WE OR MAYOR ALIOTO CAN DO TO KEEP FOUNDATION FROM MAKING PUBLIC ISSUE OF EVICTION IF MAHER IS AS DETERMINED ON THIS AS LYONS REPORTS.

6. FYI. EGYPTIAN EMBASSY OFFICERS IN WASHINGTON HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH US SEVERAL TIMES ON CG BUILDING ISSUE. ACCORDING TO EGYPTIAN EMBOFF SAMIR ABDULLAH, AMBASSADOR GHORBAL HAS BEEN BOMBARDING THEM FROM CAIRO WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO RAISE ISSUE WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICERS.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 157009

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